

[First Hit](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

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Print

L12: Entry 1 of 2

File: PGPB

Aug 29, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020120475 A1

TITLE: System and method for arranging shipment and insurance for an item

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0006] However, Internet retailers face many obstacles to turning a profit. Chief among these obstacles are high shipping costs. For example, assuming an online retailer of compact disks (CDs) based in California sells a CD to a customer in New York for \$12. The customer may be unwilling to pay \$3 (i.e., 25% of the sales price) for shipping. Internet retailers of consumer goods such as CDs, videos, and consumables face a more difficult challenge than retailers of more expensive items such as jewelry. Consumers are less likely to object to paying a \$3 shipping charge for a \$100 necklace than for a \$12 CD.

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0007] Taxes combine with shipping costs to influence online consumer purchasing decisions. Currently, many Internet retailers do not charge their customers sales tax, which tends to offset the high shipping costs to some extent. However, sales tax is typically less than 10% of the sales price, so shipping costs still pressure Internet retailers to lower their prices more than traditional brick-and-mortar retail stores. Furthermore, the future of current moratoriums on Internet sales taxes remains uncertain. It is likely that traditional brick-and-mortar retailers will exert considerable pressure on federal and state governments to "even the playing field" by forcing Internet retailers to pay some sort of Internet sales tax. For this reason, the importance of reducing shipping costs may become even more critical in the near future. Of course, reduced shipping costs may also benefit non-Internet businesses and consumers in general.

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0008] Many consumers also regard the insurance costs as being too high, further adding to the overall cost of the product. This is especially true when the shipping and insurance costs account for a substantial percentage of the product costs. For example, many consumers may object to paying \$3 in shipping charges and \$1 for insurance costs when they purchase a \$12 music CD. Thus, an improved system and method for arranging shipment and insurance for an item that is being shipped or mailed is needed.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0056] In one embodiment, each regional shipping company or hub 80-88 may be configured with a container processing apparatus that is directly or indirectly connected to a network 92. In one embodiment, as shown in the figure, network 92 is used to couple the processing apparatuses to a central server 90. While different types of networks may be used, in one embodiment the processing devices at the regional shipping company hubs and central server 90 may be connected via the Internet. In some implementations, the central server 90 may be configured to routinely poll each regional hub to determine availability, shipping times, and prices. Central server 90 may be configured to maintain a database of this information that is periodically updated. A customer wishing to ship an item may then contact one of the regional shipping companies or the central server directly (e.g., via the Internet). The customer may be prompted to provide information about the package to be shipped (e.g., size, weight, origination, final destination,

shipping deadline, and any insurance or special handling requirements). If this information is provided to a regional shipping company or hub, the company or hub may then forward the information to central server 90 of an intelligent shipping agent to query the database for a quote. In response, central server 90 may execute an optimization program configured to search out the most efficient (e.g., lowest cost) routing for the package within the specified time constraints. Central server 90 included in the intelligent shipping agent may also have information about traditional shipping alternatives (e.g., direct routing using one shipping company) for comparison.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0079] In one embodiment, the databases are maintained by periodically dispatching intelligent agents that are configured to traverse a network such as the Internet to find web sites or other network-accessible databases (steps 127 and 128). The intelligent agents may be configured to query web sites belonging to third parties (e.g., shipping companies and insurance companies, agents or brokers) in order to update the databases with current information on pricing and other information relating to shipping and insurance. Advantageously, by periodically dispatching intelligent agents (or by periodically querying third party sites), one or more internal databases may be assembled, thereby allowing real-time queries to be performed. As described above, shipment using multiple carriers may be supported in this method. In other embodiments, reverse auctions may be initiated in order to populate the databases with current pricing information.

[Previous Doc](#)

[Next Doc](#)

[Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)[Generate Collection](#)[Print](#)

L11: Entry 24 of 28

File: PGPB

Oct 24, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020156645 A1

TITLE: Network-based solution for secure parcel delivery and pick-up

Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0011] Accordingly, a personalized, secure, convenient, cost-effective, and efficient parcel delivery apparatus, method and system is of tremendous interest to the shipping and delivery industries, to companies, such as traditional retailers as well as e-tailers, and to individual consumers.

Detail Description Paragraph:

[0053] In another embodiment, upon ordering a product, the notification can be immediately sent to a customer and indicate an assigned parcel compartment at a particular parcel kiosk, an anticipated delivery date, directions to the kiosk, a contact phone number of delivery company, parcel identification numbers, and the like. This notification can be sent via e-mail, automated voice response, and the like. Further, customers can then be notified of a prescribed amount of time (for instance, one or two weeks--determined for instance by the level of kiosk use, or standard corporate policy) to pick up a parcels at the specified kiosk without incurring further charges. If a customer is tardy or overdue in making a pick-up, rather than returning the package some other location, holding charges can be added (e.g., for each day after the prescribed period has lapsed). This information can also be included in the notification.

[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

Generate Collection

Print

L11: Entry 25 of 28

File: PGPB

Aug 29, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020120475 A1

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[Previous Doc](#)

[Next Doc](#)

[Go to Doc#](#)

## Refine Search

### Search Results -

Terms	Documents
L13 and reimburs\$6	3

Database:

US Pre-Grant Publication Full-Text Database  
 US Patents Full-Text Database  
 US OCR Full-Text Database  
 EPO Abstracts Database  
 JPO Abstracts Database  
 Derwent World Patents Index  
 IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins

Search:

L14







### Search History

 DATE: Saturday, April 01, 2006    [Printable Copy](#)    [Create Case](#)

<u>Set</u> <u>Name</u>	<u>Query</u>	<u>Hit</u> <u>Count</u>	<u>Set</u> <u>Name</u> result set
side by side			
<i>DB=PGPB,USPT; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>			
<u>L14</u>	L13 and reimburs\$6	3	<u>L14</u>
<u>L13</u>	l6 and (cost\$3 or pric\$3 or fee or charg\$3) same (transport\$6 or shipp\$3)	55	<u>L13</u>
<u>L12</u>	L11 and (luggage or belonging\$)	2	<u>L12</u>
<u>L11</u>	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (cost\$3 or pric\$3 or fee) same (transport\$6 or shipp\$3)	28	<u>L11</u>
<u>L10</u>	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (cost\$3 or pric\$3 or fee) same (transport\$6 or shipp\$3) same (luggage or belonging\$)	1	<u>L10</u>
<u>L9</u>	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (bypass\$6 or avoid\$6) same (cost\$3 or pric\$3 or fee) same (transport\$6 or shipp\$3) same (luggage or belonging\$)	0	<u>L9</u>
<u>L8</u>	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (bypass\$6 or avoid\$6) same (cost\$3 or pric\$3 or fee) same (transport\$6 or shipp\$3) same (luggage or belonging\$) same (return\$ or accept\$6 or rehold\$6)	0	<u>L8</u>
<u>L7</u>	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (bypass\$6 or avoid\$6) same (cost\$3 or pric\$3 or fee) same (transport\$6 or shipp\$3) same (packag\$3 or luggage or	1	<u>L7</u>

	belonging\$) same (return\$ or accept\$6 or rehold\$6)		
<u>L6</u>	(calculat\$6 or determin\$6 or anlayz\$6) same (premium or insurance or assurance or policy) same packag\$6 same (automatic\$4 or automat\$ or electronic\$3 or online or internet or e-commerce)	172	<u>L6</u>
<u>L5</u>	L4 and packag\$3 same (return\$3 or accept\$6 or rehold\$3)	0	<u>L5</u>
<u>L4</u>	L3 and access\$6 same (data or information)	1	<u>L4</u>
<u>L3</u>	L1 and (calculat\$6 or determin\$6 or anlayz\$6) same (premium or insurance or assurance or policy) same (automatic\$4 or automat\$ or electronic\$3 or online or internet or e-commerce)	2	<u>L3</u>
<u>L2</u>	L1 and (calculat\$6 or determin\$6 or anlayz\$6) same (premium or insurance or assurance or policy) same packag\$6 same (automatic\$4 or automat\$ or electronic\$3 or online or internet or e-commerce)	0	<u>L2</u>
<u>L1</u>	(4766539 or 5704045 or 6128598).pn.	3	<u>L1</u>

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

## Refine Search

### Search Results -

Terms	Documents
L11 and (luggage or belonging\$)	2

<b>Database:</b>	US Pre-Grant Publication Full-Text Database		
	US Patents Full-Text Database		
	US OCR Full-Text Database		
	EPO Abstracts Database		
	JPO Abstracts Database		
	Derwent World Patents Index		
	IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins		

  

<b>Search:</b>	L12		

  

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**DATE:** Saturday, April 01, 2006    [Printable Copy](#)    [Create Case](#)

<u>Set</u> <u>Name</u>	<u>Query</u>	<u>Hit</u> <u>Count</u>	<u>Set</u> <u>Name</u> result set
<i>DB=PGPB,USPT; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>			
<u>L12</u>	L11 and (luggage or belonging\$)	2	<u>L12</u>
<u>L11</u>	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (cost\$3 or pric\$3 or fee) same (transport\$6 or shipp\$3)	28	<u>L11</u>
<u>L10</u>	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (cost\$3 or pric\$3 or fee) same (transport\$6 or shipp\$3) same (luggage or belonging\$)	1	<u>L10</u>
<u>L9</u>	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (bypass\$6 or avoid\$6) same (cost\$3 or pric\$3 or fee) same (transport\$6 or shipp\$3) same (luggage or belonging\$)	0	<u>L9</u>
<u>L8</u>	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (bypass\$6 or avoid\$6) same (cost\$3 or pric\$3 or fee) same (transport\$6 or shipp\$3) same (luggage or belonging\$) same (return\$ or accept\$6 or rehold\$6)	0	<u>L8</u>
<u>L7</u>	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (bypass\$6 or avoid\$6) same (cost\$3 or pric\$3 or fee) same (transport\$6 or shipp\$3) same (packag\$3 or luggage or belonging\$) same (return\$ or accept\$6 or rehold\$6)	1	<u>L7</u>
	(calculat\$6 or determin\$6 or anlayz\$6) same (premium or insurance or		



<u>L6</u>	assurance or policy) same packag\$6 same (automatic\$4 or automat\$ or electronic\$3 or online or internet or e-commerce)	172	<u>L6</u>
<u>L5</u>	L4 and packag\$3 same (return\$3 or accept\$6 or rehold\$3)	0	<u>L5</u>
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<u>L3</u>	L1 and (calculat\$6 or determin\$6 or anlayz\$6) same (premium or insurance or assurance or policy) same (automatic\$4 or automat\$ or electronic\$3 or online or internet or e-commerce)	2	<u>L3</u>
<u>L2</u>	L1 and (calculat\$6 or determin\$6 or anlayz\$6) same (premium or insurance or assurance or policy) same packag\$6 same (automatic\$4 or automat\$ or electronic\$3 or online or internet or e-commerce)	0	<u>L2</u>
<u>L1</u>	(4766539 or 5704045 or 6128598).pn.	3	<u>L1</u>

END OF SEARCH HISTORY